British Waterways

MORE RESTORATION

An extract from Our Plan for the Future 2005-2009

Prior to the Millennium restoration was piecemeal and sporadic.

As we reached the Millennium, waterway restoration activity and funding dramatically increased. We reached a high-point, and working closely with our partners were successful in securing £192 million of lottery and other funding over six years, resulting in reopening over 200 miles of restored waterways. This caused a complete change in attitude, as a new culture emerged to support high, and sustainable, levels of waterway restoration in terms of both funding and activity. We are now planning to spend at around half of that seen during the Millennium years. Having learned a great deal, we now have a much better managed, and more staged approach to long-term restoration.

As well as helping to provide a sustainable waterway network for millions of people, restoration provides a major income source and plays a key part in the delivery of the government's regeneration objectives.

DRIVING OUR PRIORITY PROJECTS

In 2004 we published our restoration priorities in our document Waterways 2025. Restoration projects are long-term commitments, taking many years to come to fruition, and we are making good progress on most of our priority projects.

We will:

- use our expertise to help prepare funding bids and act as contractors to help other waterway restoration projects where possible
- continue to focus on our Priority One projects as set out in our document, Waterways 2025

PRIORITY ONE PROJECTS

Ashby Canal (to Measham)

A public enquiry for a Transport & Works Act Order has now been completed, and we are awaiting the results. This Act will enable construction to begin and give compulsory purchase powers. We are currently working with Leicester County Council on the engineering designs for the project.

Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway

It has proved impossible to achieve the necessary levels of funding needed for the construction of the Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway. A decision was made with the B&MK Waterway Partnership to scale down our involvement in line with the level of available funding. We will, however, endeavour to ensure the line of the canal is safeguarded by planners, although we no longer regard Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway as a priority project because it is not capable of being delivered in a reasonable timescale. In our 2004 restoration document, Waterways 2025, we state that we would only support schemes that might be completed within a 20-year horizon.

Bow Back Rivers

This restoration is in the early stages of planning and the speed of its completion is closely aligned to London's success in securing the 2012 Olympic Games. If the bid is successful we will agree our land strategy with government agencies and agree a construction plan in 2005/06, with a view to start construction in 2006/07.

Cotswold Canals (Phase1)

In July 2004 the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) gave a Stage One Pass for an £11.3 million grant towards Phase One of the restoration of the Cotswold Canals meaning HLF has earmarked these funds for the project. The next stage is to submit a further, fully developed application and we hope a Stage Two Pass will be given by the end of 2005, meaning physical work could start as early as January 2006. In early 2005, the South West Regional Development Agency also committed funding.

Droitwich Canals

85% of the funding is in place for this restoration. Depending on funding we plan to start work in 2005.

Fens Waterways Link

An Implementation Plan has been published, supported by technical reports, which explores in detail the feasibility of the Link. The project is being led by the Environment Agency and is made up of many small projects. For more information visit www.fenswaterways.com

Liverpool Link

We already have a commitment for £7.5 million for this £15 million scheme, and our partners are currently considering the availability of further funding. Planning permission has been granted and so long as adequate funding is in place we aim to start building the link at the end of 2005/06 and complete it by 2007/08 in time for when Liverpool becomes the European Capital of Culture in 2008.

Manchester, Bolton & Bury Canal

We have so far received £4.5 million from the North West Development Agency, European Regional Development Fund, including £1million direct from the private sector. Work for Phase One could start at the end of 2005, subject to completing the final details of the funding package, with a plan to complete construction in 2007.

Montgomery Canal

We will publish the conservation management strategy early in 2005/06 and complete a 500-metre channel construction at Llanymynech in 2006. We want to secure funding for the main restoration by 2006/07.

Northern Reaches, Lancaster Canal

The North West Development Agency, the South Lakeland District Council, and the main funding partners have contributed £0.75 million to deliver a feasibility study for the restoration of the Northern Reaches (Phase One) of the Lancaster Canal. We will complete this study and will develop a Master Plan in 2006.

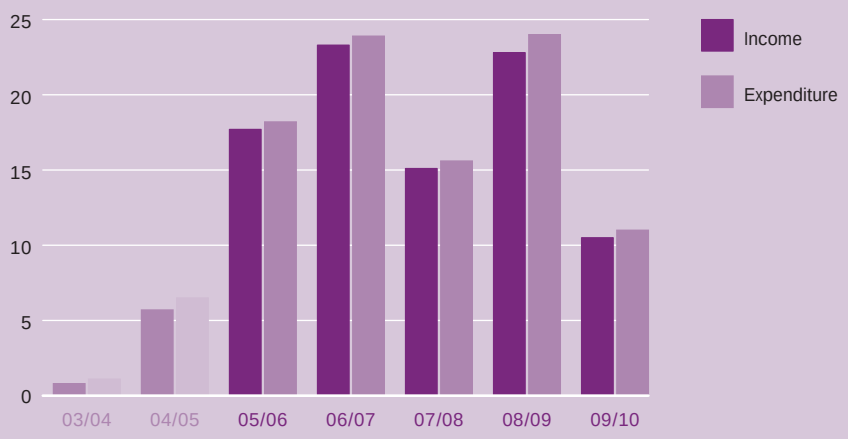
River Carron Navigation

A £200,000 feasibility study has now been completed. The study identifies options for the improvement of navigation on the River Carron.

We plan to expand our waterways. The restoration and regeneration of the Bow Back Rivers, East London, is at the centre of the London 2012 Olympic Bid. ▲

Restoration Milestones	Year
Bow Back Rivers	
Review Restoration Project following International Olympic Committee decision (6th July 2005)	2005
Agree construction plan	2006
Construction	2006 onwards
Cotswold Canals	
HLF Stage 2 application	2005
HLF contract signed	2006
All major contracts let	2007/08
Droitwich Canals	
Planning application submitted	2005
First major contract let	2005
A449 west crossing completed	2006
All major contracts let	2007
Forth & Clyde Canal	
Completion of Port Dundas Link	2006
Liverpool Link	
Secure final estates and funding agreements	2005
Start construction of link	2006
Complete construction	2007
Manchester, Bolton & Bury Canal	
Commence construction phase I (Middlewood)	2005
Complete construction phase I	2006
Montgomery Canal	
Publish conservation management strategy	2005
Complete 500m channel construction – Llanymynech	2006
Secure funding for main restoration	2006
Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal	
Maintenance of restored lengths	2005
Review ongoing membership of restoration partnership	2005
Northern Reaches, Lancaster Canal	
Commence feasibility for Northern Reaches (Phase 1), Kendal	2005
Complete study and commence development master plan	2006

Restoration Income and Expenditure £m



If you like to know more about how our plans could affect you, please visit our website at www.britishwaterways.co.uk/plan